

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05067 091140Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, YO

SUBJ: AMCIT AJET AZEMI CALLED FOR YUGOSLAV MILITARY SERVICE

1. SUMMAR: FSFA STILL HAS NO REPORT FROM MACEDONIAN AUTHORITIES RE AZEMI CASE. INDUCTION NOW SEEMS UNAVOIDABLE AND FSFA SHOWING LITTLE SIGN OF FLEXIBILITY ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY OF EARLY RELEASE NOT RULED OUT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN URGING FSFA CONSULAR OFFICIALS TO DO UTMOST RESOLVE AZEMI CASE. ACCORDING PRIMARY CONTACT, (VLADAN BATAV-ELJIC, LEGAL ADVISOR,CONSULAR DEPARTMENT), AS OF NOV 8, FSFA STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REPLY TO WRITTEN OR FOLLOW-UP TELEPHONIC INQUIRIES. TO THE "COMPETENT" AUTHORITIES.

3. BATAVELJIC, WHO HAS BEEN FRANK AND FRIENDLY IN HIS DEALING WITH EMBASSY FOR MANY YEARS, OFFERED PERSONAL ADVICE TO LET AZEMI CASE RIDE FOR "DOZEN DAYS OR SO." EVEN THEN, HE BELIEVES OUTCOME WILL NOT BE ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY. WHEN EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT AZEMI WOULD ALREADY BE INDUCTED BY THAT TIME, BATAVELJIC SAID INJUNCTION WOULD NOT PRECLUDE HIS EARLY RELEASE, SHOULD SUCH A DECISION BE MADE.

4. BATAVELJIC ASSERTED THAT US GROUNDS FOR INTERVENTION IN CASES OF MILITARY SERVICE FOR DUAL NATIONAL ARE VERY WEAK. HE OPINED THAT NO COUNTRY IN WORLD WOULD EXEMPT ITS YOUNG MEN FROM OBLIGA-
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05067 091140Z

TORY MILITARY SERVICE IF THEY HAVE NOT DIVESTED THEMSELVES OF

NATIONALITY OF THAT COUNTRY.

5. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, BATAVELJIC ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF YUGO EMBASSY'S CABLE INQUIRY RE AZEMI. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON QUESTIONS IN REF A:

(A) YUGOSLAV REGULATIONS AUTHORIZE SEIZURE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENT TO INSURE PRESENCE IN YUGOSLAVIA PENDING OUTCOME OF ADMINISTRATIVE OR JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. IF AZEMI INDUCTED, FSFA WILL RETURN PASSPORT TO EMBASSY.

(B) AND (C) BATAVELJIC ASSUMES THAT AZEMI NEITHER IN CUSTODY NOR CHARGED WITH ANY CRIME, BUT HAS ONLY BEEN ORDERED REPORT FOR INDUCTION.

(D) RE DRAFT AGE: YUGO CITIZENS ABROAD MUST REGISTER WITH GOY DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR POST AND VOLUNTEER FOR INDUCTION PRIOR TO 29TH BIRTHDAY; IF THEY FAIL TO DO SO, THEN ELIGIBLE FOR INDUCTION UNTIL 33.

6. IN CLOSING, BATAVELJIC SAID, HAVING IN MIND GOOD CONSULAR RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOY, HE WOULD CONTINUE DOING WHAT HE CAN. THEN, HE POINTEDLY ADDED THAT HE WORKS IN CONSULAR AFFAIRS AND THEREFORE NOT AWARE OF CURRENT STATE OF BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE WE WERE HOPEFUL BETTER RESULTS, PRESENT STATUS NOT UNEXPECTED SINCE MANIPULATIONS ON LOCAL LEVEL IN SUCH CASES HAVE GENERALLY BORNE MORE FRUIT THAN SOMETIMES LIMP FSFA THRUST. REGRETTABLY, AZEMI'S CONNECTIONS IN KICEVO AREA SEEM TO HAVE FAILED HIM SO FAR, AND PERSONAL HARDSHIPS HE WOULD UNDERGO IF INDUCTED NOT VERY PERSUASIVE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

8. THOUGH PROSPECT OF AZEMI'S INDUCTION TROUBLING, IT DIFFICULT TO FIND ANY CONVINCING BASIS FOR COMPLAINT SINCE GOY POSITION SEEMS REST ON FIRM LEGAL GROUNDS. GIVEN FACT THAT SEVERAL AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN DUAL NATIONALS ARE NOW SERVING IN YUGOSLAV FORCES, DISCRIMINATION IS RULED OUT.

9. DESPITE THESE UNHAPPY FACTS, EMBASSY INTENDS TO CONTINUE PLEADING AZEMI'S CASE WITH CONSULAR OFFICIALS, WITH THE HOPE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 05067 091140Z

THERE MAY BE SOMETHING TO BATAVELJIC'S ADVICE TO WAIT.
TOON

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